

Understanding Factors that Influence Health through the TOOLS OF THE SOCIAL SCIENCES

Symposia Series | Fall/Winter 2009



GOAL: To elucidate factors known to influence health through the contributions of social science research. Each symposium will address an important health issue from four scientific perspectives: economics, health services, sociology and anthropology. Presentations will provide background on the concepts, definitions, methods, and theories through which social scientists study the causes of health problems and the application of this science for improving health.

SYMPOSIUM #1: ADHERENCE

September 29, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Neurosciences Building, 6001 Executive Blvd., Room C

Broadly defined, adherence is the extent to which health behaviors (e.g. taking medications, diet, visiting a health professional) are concordant with prevailing guidelines regarding healthy outcomes. Economics, health policies, organizational systems, social and cultural factors all play a role in adherence to healthy behaviors.

Anthropology Perspective:

Janis Jenkins, Ph.D.
Professor of Anthropology
University of California, San Diego

Sociology Perspective:

Bruce G. Link, Ph.D.
Faculty Fellow, Department of Epidemiology
Co-Director, Robert Wood Johnson Health & Society
Scholars Program
Mailman School of Public Health
Columbia University

Health Services Perspective:

Elizabeth A. McGlynn, Ph.D.
Associate Director, RAND Health
Distinguished Chair in Health Quality, RAND

Economics Perspective:

Dana Goldman, Ph.D.
Director of Health Economics, RAND
Professor of Health Services and Radiology at UCLA

SYMPOSIUM #2: EDUCATION

December 2, 2009

8:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., Neurosciences Building, 6001 Executive Blvd., Room B1/B2

There is ample evidence demonstrating an association between educational attainment and a wide variety of health problems, behaviors and outcomes. Less is known about the mechanisms through which education influences health. Economics, health policies, organizational systems, social and cultural factors all play a role in shaping educational gradients in health.

Anthropology Perspective:

Susan J. Shaw, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Anthropology
University of Arizona

Sociology Perspective:

John Mirowsky, Ph.D.
Professor of Sociology
University of Texas

Health Services Perspective:

Kevin Fiscella, M.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor of Family Medicine and Community & Preventive Medicine
Associate Director, Rochester Center to Improve Communication in Health Care
University of Rochester

Economics Perspective:

James Smith, Ph.D.
Senior Economist, RAND
RAND Chair in Labor Markets and Demographics Studies

Sponsor: Office of Behavioral and Social Sciences Research, OD/NIH

Individuals with disabilities who need reasonable accommodation to participate, including sign language interpretation, should contact Dr. Helen Meissner, OBSSR/OD, 301-402-1146

Lectures in this series are now videocast and can be viewed at: <http://videocast.nih.gov/PastEvents.asp?c=82>.
Videocasts are archive only and posted approximately one week after the lecture concludes; no live recording is available.